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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/020,932	12/19/2001	Mitsuyuki Goto	217593US2	9890

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EXAMINER
CUFF, MICHAEL A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3627	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
01/10/2008	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/020,932	GOTO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Michael Cuff	3627	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *29 October 2007*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-23* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-23* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *20080103*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Trunick in view of Cukor et al., and Gerstenberg et al.

Trunick shows all of the limitations of the claims except for specifying details of the image and document data generation and storage, and the use of a diagram to show status.

Trunick shows a freight tracking system. From the bottom of page two, for larger volume shippers, many carriers will offer use of a dedicated terminal which will permit access to tracing information. Typically, the shipper can get more information from a system like this and it is more convenient to use. Terminal-based inquiries can be made using broader information such as consignee name. When associated with the shipper's identification, the system will display status (when the party concerned specifies a data request, the output is a display status. The reference is silent as to how the status is displayed.) on all shipments bound from that shipper to that consignee.

Personal computers also have a place in shipment tracking. Like the terminal-based systems, personal computers provide detailed information and more of it. Computer-based systems can store and forward information such as purchase orders, bills of

lading, and freight bills. These systems can even rate shipments--sometimes on more than one carrier.

From the middle of page 3, once the basic shipment information is in the carrier's system, the shipment can be tracked to the destination. When the shipment moves from dock to trailer, trailer to dock, or anywhere in the system, the person responsible for the work updates the shipment status, says P-I-E's Russ Dixon, manager of sales and marketing. American Airlines follows a similar process, collecting shipment information whenever cargo moves onto or off of an aircraft or from container to container, says Fred Otteson.

Roadway maintains an "image" (the reference is silent as to how the “image” is generated and stored) of the shipper's BOL in its computer system. This includes a database of commodities shipped, special instructions, and delivery instructions for various consignees (inside delivery, special handling, etc.).

The middle of page 4 discusses using the tracking systems to facilitate customs. (a storing identification data that identifies a party concerned with export or import) Test runs showed some shipments can be cleared through U.S. customs within 20 seconds of "wheels up" in Europe, says Lieber. American's SABRE system is automatically updated so that the consignee can be notified of the arrival time for the shipment. (an execution date is inherent in this capability.)

Cukor et al. teaches a shipment system including processing of document images. Cukor et al. teaches generating image data of a document on which a

condition of exporting or importing of goods is described (see for example column 5, lines 37-42) and storing the image data (see for example column 5, lines 42-47).

Cukor et al. further teaches storing document data described on said document (see for example column 6, lines 49-56).

Cukor et al. teaches a data output step for outputting the images and the document data (see for example column 9, lines 18-35).

Cukor teaches said image data generation step generating said image data upon reception of said documents obtained as a result of execution of a physical distribution step (see for example column 10, lines 4-12). Examiner notes that the arrival of a shipment to the remote freight terminal represents a physical distribution step.

Returning to Cukor et al. Examiner notes that Cukor teaches that it is common for shippers or consignees (concerned parties) to require that the shipping invoice be accompanied by copies of various documents, such as bill of lading, purchase order, or signed delivery receipt (see column 12, lines 25-29). To achieve this Cukor et al. downloads the images which are printed at the central station.

Cukor teaches determining a type of generated image data, and when the determined type is different from a predetermined type, converting said image data to said predetermined type and storing converted image data (see column 7, lines 39-54). Cukor shows a diagram illustrating a correspondence between the host computer (person who conducts the procedure) and received by the shipper or consignees (person who receives said procedure) (see column 12, lines 16-30).

Based on the teaching of Cukor et al., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to modify Trunick to incorporate the architecture of Cukor et al. in order to provide established processes to accomplish tasks, which have been broadly described.

Gerstenberg et al. teaches a method for controlling and intermediate stacking device for flat shipment. Figure 2 is a status diagram, with arrows, of the sequence of steps carried out during the process and corresponds to the possible state transitions shown in the last column of diagram 1.

Based on the teaching of Gerstenberg et al., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to modify Trunick to incorporate the use of the Gertenberg et al. status diagram in the displaying of status in order to provide a graphical, easy to read, means for displaying status.

Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Trunick, Cukor, and Gerstenberg, as applied above, and further in view of Pure PDF.

The combination of Trunick, Cukor, and Gerstenberg does not specifically teach predetermined type as PDF. Examiner submits the article “Pure PDF” as evidence that at the time of the present invention the PDF document format was old and well known as ideal for cross-platform operations (see lines 9-10). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention to modify the

predetermined format of Cukor to include PDF as taught to be old and well known by Pure PDF. One of ordinary skill would have been motivated to modify the references in order to produce a system ideal for cross-platform operations.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 10/29/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant asserts that the prior art does not teach current status being displayed as a diagram. The examiner does not concur. Trunick shows the obtaining of current status. Gerstenberg teaches a status diagram. There are many possible ways of displaying status once it is obtained. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to choose any of many display methods, but based on the teaching of Gertenberg, it would be obvious to use a status diagram.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Cuff whose telephone number is (571) 272-6778. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 to 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ryan Zeender can be reached on (571) 272-6790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael Cuff/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3627